Survey Results
& Analysis

for

Survey on the use of WeBWorK in MATH 253
Executive Summary

This report contains a detailed statistical analysis of the results to the survey titled *Survey on the use of WeBWorK in MATH 253*. The results analysis includes answers from all respondents who took the survey in the 20 day period from Sunday, November 25, 2012 to Friday, December 14, 2012. 75 completed responses were received to the survey during this time.
Survey Results & Analysis

Survey: Survey on the use of WeBWorK in MATH 253
Author:
Filter:
Responses Received: 75

Which section are you in?

![Pie chart showing section distribution]

- 101 (Instructor: Dr. Jim Bryan) 22
- 103 (Instructor: Dr. Ed Richmond) 12
- 104 (Instructor: Dr. Ian Hewitt) 16
- 105 (Instructor: Dr. Dale Peterso) 13
- 106 (Instructor: Dr. Yariv Mizrahi) 12
- can't remember 0
When do you normally start your WeBWork assignment?

On average, what percentage of a typical WebWork assignment do you attempt
regularly? Your answer should include problems you do some work on and for which you may or may not obtain a correct answer.

On average, what percentage of a typical WebWork assignment do you attempt regularly? 

Which of the following statements best describes your typical approach to answering questions on WeBWork when you don't get a question right at your first attempt?
Other Responses:

I usually try it a few more times on my own, then come back to it later if I still haven't solved it. Then I'll consult with other students if I still haven't gotten it.

guess 0, 1, the negative of my answer, the inverse of my answer, then rework and repeat.

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I search it online for similar questions

Google
Whom do you ask for help with WeBWork problems? Check all that apply.

Other Responses:
- Google
Do you find the "Email your instructor" option useful? Please explain why in the "Additional comments" box.

Comment Responses:

On and off usefulness. The first time I emailed I was given incorrect advice.
actually, but the second time, a month later, it was very helpful.

Helps in spotting silly errors, plus helps when you don't understand a question, can suggest different approaches, etc

I thought that was for technical help.

He's helpful when I'm stuck

They answer 2 days later usually.

Instructor helps out

It helps clarify issues when things make no sense for anyone else you've asked

Asking classmates is instantaneous; presumably asking the instructor isn't. Plus, when I ask questions, it often gives away how little of the course I comprehend, which is embarrassing. Plus many of my a

Asking classmates is instantaneous; presumably asking the instructor isn't. Plus, when I ask questions, it gives away how little I comprehend, which is embarrassing. Plus many of my attempts are swear words and the instructor sees those if you email.

What proportion of the times are you guessing the answer to a question in a typical WeBWorK assignment?
On average, how would you rate the mathematical difficulty of WeBWorK problems relative to other problems in the course?
On average, how often was the syntax required to submit an answer to WebWork an obstacle in completing your assignment?
Assuming you have used WeBWorK in other courses besides MATH 253, how does the syntax required to submit answers to WeBWorK in this course compare to other courses? Please explain why in the "Additional comments" box, specifying in what other course(s) you used WeBWorK. The syntax required to submit an answer to WeBWorK in this course is
Comment Responses:

- only thing worse is mastering.
- due to the complexities of some answers
- Math 110, Math 101
- Seemed to be more flexibility in 253
- It sometimes takes a while to write out the answers. I have used WeBWorK for Math 100 and 101 and Stat 251.
- never hard to get the right syntax
- Questions aren't as extensive
- Syntax was not a huge issue
- it's awful.
- Syntax has never been too much of a hassle for me
Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.
WeBWork problems are related to problems on tests and/or class examples. (Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.)

- Strongly Agree: 15
- Agree: 38
- Neutral: 9
- Disagree: 8
- Strongly disagree: 3

**WeBWork problems are good practice for solving problems on tests.** (Please rate...
The immediate responses I get from WeBWork help me learn the course material. (Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.)
I often get frustrated with WeBWork problems due to their mathematical difficulty. (Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.)
I often get frustrated by the particular syntax required to submit answers to WeBWork. (Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.)
If you were to compare the feedback you get on the online homework with the feedback on the hand-in assignments, which one do you find more effective in helping you learn the material?
If you were to compare the feedback you get on the online homework with the feedback on the hand-in assignment, the immediate feedback I get from... is preferred by 50.7%.

The written feedback I get on the... is preferred by 16.4%.

They are equally effective is preferred by 15.1%.

They are equally ineffective is preferred by 17.8%.

If you were to take a similar course again, which homework option would you prefer? Assume each suggested option is worth the same percentage of your final course grade.
Please add any comments about WeBWork that you feel are not captured by the questions above.

I believe that the combination of hand in assignments and webwork is good, however there is TOO MUCH!! This is not the only homework I do for math obviously and this impedes my learning style of going through the questions in
the book as well.

WebWork's problems seem to focus on the difficult algebra/math aspect of the course, not the conceptual aspect which is what the midterms focus on.

Having both written and webwork assignments makes us rush and hurry. I feel it does not effectively teach/help us learn the material. Rather it is there for just completion marks. If I were to choose one or the other, it would be only written hand-in assignments.

Very convenient.

Most annoying thing is that since somewhat random numbers are out in, it sucks to deal with complex algebra that wastes my time.

Webworks is effective in teaching the material being asked. I find, however, that oftentimes the level of the Webworks questions is too easy compared to examples.

Frustrating that you are not told when you are really close to the correct answer vs way off. This would be a great improvement, particularly in rounding errors and small mathematical errors.

Some weeks, there were way too many questions, all very similar. This was a huge waste of time and made me guess more of the multiple choice questions to save time.

I found that the Webwork questions were often poorly correlated to the material on the mid-term tests. In fact while I could complete >90% of the Webwork I often struggled with the mid-term questions.

Webwork disconnects the student from the material.

The feedback on the written hand-in homework was not very useful. No comments were written on my homework when returned. The marker did not even indicate which questions I got wrong/right and just gave me a number on the front of the assignment.

I feel like in the beginning, the homework was manageable, but after courses started going along, the hw load became too much, since we basically had 2 hws due every week.

as much as possible. it would be nice to have more TA available on the math tutor. It is ALWAYS full if you come at 5.00 exactly. It would be nice if we can meet with the TA on appointments.

webwork may need some explanation when we get a question wrong.

Only continue with webwork problems if they make them easier. Some of the problems are ridiculous and most students use online help such as wolfram alpha. This creates ineffective learning, it should be similar to problems we will see on midterms so it is proper practice.

There were too many questions a week, we had the webwork material and the written homework for this course. It took up way too much time and I spent many hours doing the webwork every week. I would say this course was the hardest workload compared to any other engineering math course that I have
For #7, my answer was 0% but the survey made me put at least 1%

When I have unlimited attempts and limited time, I always guess the obvious before trying a problem. If brute force guessing will take less time than solving the problem, I try that. Webwork is far more effective, in my opinion, than hand in homework. Its drawbacks are a subset of the drawbacks of physical homework. It's great because I don't have to take the time to make my writing neat, and if I am able to skip steps I can without repercussions.

Nothing, I thought webwork complemented the 253 course very nicely this year